



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Air District offers rebates for gas fireplace inserts & stoves ***\$200 to switch from burning wood to less polluting natural gas***

SAN FRANCISCO – In conjunction with the Winter Spare the Air season, the Bay Area Air District is offering \$200 rebates to residents toward reducing the cost of switching to natural gas fireplace stoves and inserts.

“Wood burning pollutes not only the outdoor air, but the indoor environment as well,” said Jack Broadbent, Air District executive officer. “Switching from wood burning to natural gas is a great clean air choice to make, not only for your neighbors’ health but for your family’s as well.”

Beginning at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18, Bay Area residents can log on to www.sparetheair.org to register for the rebate program, or call 1-800-HELP-AIR for more information or 415-749-4999 for assistance with the registration process. Supply is limited and vouchers are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

In the wintertime, fine particulate matter is the pollutant with the greatest impact on air quality. Prolonged exposure to the fine particulates in wood smoke has been linked to aggravated asthma, lung and heart disease, and increased mortality rates. Wood burning in fireplaces and woodstoves creates up to one-third of the winter particulate matter air pollution in some parts of the Bay Area.

In July 2008, the Air District passed the Wood Burning Rule to reduce fine particulate matter air pollution from wood smoke. Under this regulation, it is now illegal to burn wood, fire logs, or pellets in fireplaces, woodstoves, or outdoor fire pits during a *Winter Spare the Air Alert*. The 2008-09 Winter Spare the Air season runs from November 1 through February 28.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency chartered with protecting air quality in the Bay Area.

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